

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
SOUTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff, vs. JAMES BUNKER, Defendant.	4:21-CR-40056-KES REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
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This matter came before the court for a change of plea hearing on Wednesday, November 8, 2023. The defendant, James Bunker, appeared in person and by his counsel, Clint Sargent and Glenn Bruder. The United States appeared by its Assistant United States Attorney.

The defendant consented in open court to the change of plea before a United States Magistrate Judge. This court finds that the defendant's consent was voluntary and upon the advice of counsel. The government also consented to the plea hearing before a magistrate judge. Further, the parties waived their right to object to the report and recommendation.

Defendant has reached a plea agreement wherein he intends to plead guilty to count 8 of the second superseding indictment which charges him with making a false statement to a financial institution in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1014. At the hearing, the defendant was advised of the nature of the charges

to which the defendant would plead guilty and the maximum penalties applicable, specifically: 30 years' imprisonment; a \$1 million fine; or both; 5 years' supervised release; an additional 3 years' imprisonment if supervised release is revoked; forfeiture; restitution; and a \$100 special assessment.

Upon questioning the defendant personally in open court, it is the finding of the court that the defendant is fully competent and capable of entering an informed plea, that the defendant is aware of the nature of the charges and the consequences of the plea, and that his plea of guilty to count 8 of the second superseding indictment is a knowing and voluntary plea supported by an independent basis in fact containing each of the essential elements of the offense. It is my report and recommendation that the defendant's plea of guilty be accepted and that he be adjudged guilty of that offense.

DATED this 8th day of November, 2023.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Veronica L. Duffy", written over a horizontal line.

VERONICA L. DUFFY
United States Magistrate Judge